

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the Office Action dated December 30, 2004. In response thereto, claims 1-6 and 8 are amended, and claim 7 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-6 and 8 are pending in the present application.

Objections

The disclosure and claims 1-8 are objected to because of informalities. The Abstract is amended to overcome the objection. With respect to the words of the missing letter "e", Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to provide an example, and Applicant respectfully submits that the corrections may not be necessary due to the different spelling style from conventional British-English.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 1 is amended to overcome the rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shlosberg U.S. Patent No. 1,023,225.

Claims 4 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shlosberg U.S. Patent No. 1,023,225.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shlosberg in view of Gibel U.S. Patent No. 3,688,868.

Applicant has noted that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. To expedite the prosecution process, claim 1 is amended to recite the features recited in claim 7. Thus, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-6 and 8 are in condition for allowance.

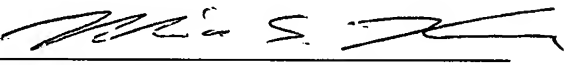
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the present application and a favorable response are respectfully requested.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues, please contact the undersigned at 612-752-7367.

Respectfully submitted,

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP
Customer Number 25763

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By: 
Min (Amy) S. Xu, Reg. No. 39,536
Intellectual Property Department
Suite 1500
50 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402-1498